



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN \_ 9 2015

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your letter of May 12 regarding the Department of State's submission to Congress of the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. The Secretary's participation in the report rollout, even if it must be delayed by his travel, elevates the report. The Secretary has needed to travel abroad for extended periods, often on short notice, during the past three months to address a variety of pressing foreign policy concerns.

We intend to release the report as soon as possible and will keep you informed. Chairmen and Ranking Members of authorizing and appropriating committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives will have embargoed access to the reports on the day of rollout. The content of each country submission within the package of human rights reports is a straightforward review of that country's human rights record for the calendar year 2014.

We appreciate and share your concern over the welfare of detained U.S. citizens Saeed Abedini, Amir Hekmati, and Jason Rezaian, and missing U.S. citizen Robert Levinson. We raise these cases regularly with the Iranian government.

We hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julia Frifield".

Julia Frifield  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable  
Ted Cruz,  
United States Senate.